

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /059 W  
-----010848Z 003078 /11

R 311808Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9999  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL OPORTO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA  
USMISSION NATO  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0835

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT PO  
SUBJECT: SOARES DOMINATES PS CONGRESS

REF: (A) 76 LISBON 7498 (DTG 021818Z NOV 76), (B) LISBON 0796  
(DTG 281635Z JAN 77)

SUMMARY: LEFT-WING DISSIDENTS FAILED TO MOUNT A SERIOUS  
CHALLENGE TO THE SOARES LEADERSHIP AT THE SOCIALIST PARTY  
CONGRESS IN OPORTO JAN 30. LOPES CARDOSO LED THE VOCAL  
OPPOSITION BUT REFUSED TO JOIN THOSE WHO WALKED OUT OF THE  
CONGRESS WHEN THE LEFT-WINGERS LOST A KEY PROCEDURAL VOTE.  
THE PS LEFT WING STILL HAS TROUBLE-MAKING POTENTIAL, BUT THE  
OPORTO CONGRESS AGAIN DEMONSTRATED THAT, WITH SOARES AT  
THE HELM, THE PS LEFT WING IS MANAGEABLE. END SUMMARY.

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1. NO SURPRISES: THE SOCIALIST PARTY CONGRESS RECONVENED IN  
OPORTO JAN 30 TO CONTINUE DELIBERATIONS BEGUN IN LISBON IN  
OCTOBER (REF A). THE RESULTS WERE GENERALLY AS EXPECTED.  
THE PRINCIPAL AGENDA ITEM, THE REVISED PARTY STATUTES, WAS  
APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE, ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE INDIVIDUAL ARTICLES  
WERE REFERRED TO THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR FINAL ACTION.  
FORMER AGRICULTURE MINISTER ANTONIO LOPES CARDOSO ESTABLISHED

HIMSELF AS THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE LEFT-WING MINORITY ALMOST FROM THE OUTSET. THE PATTERN WAS SET EARLY ON, WITH THE SOARES-LED LEADERSHIP EASILY TURNING BACK A MOTION TO RESEAT DISSIDENT LEFT-WINGERS, INCLUDING THOSE RECENTLY EXPELLED FROM THE PARTY (REF B). THE KEY PROCEDURAL VOTE CAME IN THE EARLY EVENING ON A MOTION INTRODUCED FOR THE LEADERSHIP BY JAIME GAMA CALLING FOR REFERRAL OF ALL UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE SHOULD THE CONGRESS LACK A QUORUM DURING SUBSEQUENT VOTING ON INDIVIDUAL STATUTES. THE GAME MOTION CARRIED BY A 300 TO 192 MARGIN WITH 36 ABSTENTIONS. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE VOTE BECAME APPARENT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY WHEN A NUMBER OF LEFT-WINGERS LEFT THE HALL IN PROTEST, LEAVING THE CONGRESS WITHOUT A QUORUM. LOPES CARDOSO HOWEVER, STAYED AND CONSPICUOUSLY JOINED IN CHANTS OF "SOCIALISM, YES. DIVISIONISM, NO."

2. ACCENTUATING THE POSITIVE: PARTY LEADER SOARES, HIS USUAL EBULLIENT SELF, DELIVERED AN IMPROMPTU ADDRESS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONGRESS. SOARES STRESSED THE NEED FOR UNITY IN SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO REACTION; EMPHASIZED THAT THAT THE IMPORTANT POINTS IN THE STATUTES HAD BEEN FULLY DEBATED; AND NOTED THAT OPPOSITION ELEMENTS HAD HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES, AND IT WAS NOW TIME FOR ALL SOCIALISTS TO CLOSE RANKS TO PROMOTE NATIONAL RECOVERY.

3. ACCENTUATING THE NEGATIVE: PS CRITICS ON THE RIGHT AND LEFT WERE NOT CONVINCED. CONSERVATIVE DAILY "O DIA" UNDERSCORED THE UNFINISHED AGENDA OF THE CONGRESS AS CONFIDENTIAL

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REFLECTING IRRECONCILABLE DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE SOCIALIST RANKS. COMMUNIST MOUTHPIECE "O DIARIO" PLAYED A VARIANT OF THE SAME THEME, HEADLINING THE ADJOURNMENT WITHOUT A QUORUM.

4. COMMENT: FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE PS LEADERSHIP, THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE CONGRESS IS THAT IT OCCURRED WITHOUT SERIOUS MISHAP. THE LEFT-WING DISSIDENTS FAILED TO MUSTER A SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO THE SOARES LEADERSHI. FEW DELEGATES WERE WILLING TO HEED THE CALL OF RECENTLY-EXPELLED LEFT WINGERS TO REPUDIATE DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST THE DISSIDENT.

5. LOPES CARDOSO, DESPITE HIS VOCAL OPPOSITION TO VIRTUALLY EVERY MOTION INTRODUCED BY THE LEADERSHIP, WAS CAREFUL NOT TO STEP OFF THE RESERVATION. HIS RHETORIC WAS LESS SIGNIFICANT THAN HIS REFUSAL TO JOIN THOSE LEFT-WINGERS WHO WALKED OUT OF THE CONGRESS. FOR LOPES CARDOSO, THE CONGRESS WAS AN IMPORTANT STEP ON THE LONG ROAD BACK TO INFLUENCE WITHIN THE PARTY. WITH CARMELINDA PEREIRA, AIRES RODRIGUES,

AND OTHER STRIDENT LEFT-WINGERS GONE AND ANTONIO REIS  
BACKING SOARES, DISSIDENT LEFT-WINGERS ARE AGAIN LOOKING TO  
LOPES CARDOSO FOR LEADERSHIP.

6. THE CONGRESS IS A FURTHER REMINDER THAT THE SOARES  
LEADERSHIP STILL HAS PROBLEMS WITH THE PS LEFT WING, PARTI-  
CULARLY IN THE LABOR AND YOUTH SECTORS. BUT THE CONGRESS  
ALSO WAS A REAFFIRMATION THAT, WITH SOARES AT THE HELM,  
THE LEFT WING OF THE PARTY IS MANAGEABLE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Reference:** 76 LISBON 7498, 77 LISBON 796  
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**Subject:** SOARES DOMINATES PS CONGRESS  
**TAGS:** PINT, PO, (SOARES, MARIO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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